



California Postsecondary Education Commission

Update on the Commission's University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2007

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The Commission has completed data collection for the 2007 University Eligibility Study. This study is the latest in a series that began in 1961 to estimate the percentage of California public high school graduates who meet the admission requirements of the California State University and the University of California. The studies are conducted by collecting a sample of transcripts from high schools throughout the state. The transcripts are reviewed by university admission staff to compare the courses taken by the sampled students and their grades and test scores with each system's eligibility requirements. State-wide eligibility rates are estimated from this sample.

Data Collection

Staff from Vangent Inc. has collected transcript data from 158 of the 205 schools contacted for the study. Vangent is UC's contractor for collecting and handling student data for the Eligibility in the Local Context program and has a system to collect transcript information from school student information systems. Nearly all of the schools that Vangent contacted were willing to provide data for the study, but about 20 have changed to student information systems that are not compatible with the Vangent system. These schools were dropped from the sample.

All of the transcript data collected from schools has now been evaluated by UC and CSU. Evaluation was done by computerized systems that incorporate UC's and CSU's evaluation rules and match courses and grades on each student's record with each system's eligibility requirements. This information was combined with test scores from the College Board and ACT to give a preliminary determination of UC and CSU eligibility for each student. The results from this step were reviewed by UC and CSU admission staff, giving a final determination of eligibility for each student at the sampled schools.

Analysis of Results

Vangent is preparing a computer file containing the results of transcript evaluation. When this file is ready, work can begin on the statistical analysis. The consultant who designed the sampling plan will provide information needed to apply the correct weights to the results from each of the sampled schools, based on an analysis of statewide high school enrollment data. Staff at the Commission, UC, and CSU will then independently develop statistical procedures to estimate statewide eligibility rates from the sample. Staff will compare results and resolve any differences. When the Commission, UC, and CSU concur on the results, Commission staff will prepare a final report presenting the estimates of statewide eligibility rates.